'I was mortified,' Mr. Average American declares

Richard Johnson

"The only thing I can say is that I was mortified to hear the news," Richard Johnson, Rolling Meadows' "average American" said late yesterday on hearing of the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew.

Johnson and his family were chosen to represent the average American family in two special television documentaries last year, said he had not been following the Agnew probe closely but added "I didn't think it would get to this point."

"I'm really green on it, (the Agnew probe) but the fact that a man of his caliber who has aspirations for the Presidency would even consider something like this, I just can't believe it," Johnson said.

Johnson, who voted for the Nixon-Agnew ticket last year after having spent a week on the campaign trail with Democratic candidate Sen. George McGovern, added he feels Agnew's resignation "will compound his (President Nixon's) problems, that's for sure."

"I still don't think Nixon's out of the woods on this Watergate business by a long shot," Johnson added. "And I'll say this again, if I had known all this I wouldn't have voted Republican for the first time in 20 years."